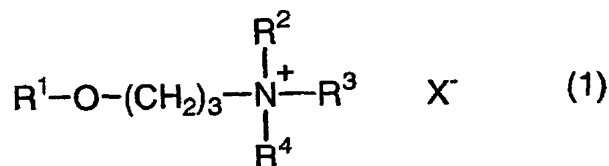


ABSTRACT

Provided are a hair cosmetic composition comprising an ether type cationic surfactant represented by the following formula (1):



wherein, R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group, R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(\text{AO})_n\text{H}$ (A: a C_{2-4} alkylene group, n: a number of from 1 to 6 with the proviso that n pieces of A may be the same or different and their sequence is optional), R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(\text{A}'\text{O})_m\text{H}$ (A' : a C_{2-4} alkylene group, m: a number of from 1 to 6 with the proviso that m pieces of A may be the same or different and their sequence is optional), and X^- represents an anion; a hair cleansing composition containing the cationic surfactant(1); and a method of treating hair with these compositions.

The hair cosmetic composition of the present invention can impart good flexibility and smoothness to hair not only when it is wetted but also after drying. When used as a hair cleansing composition, it provides excellent quality of foam and feeling upon use and exhibits good low-temperature stability.